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HOUSE ROLLS Back Tax Giveaways TO BIG OIL TO INVEST IN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. –“ The U.S. House of Representatives approved H.R. 6, the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007, today to repeal \$14 billion in subsidies and tax breaks for Big Oil companies in order to invest in clean renewable and alternative

fuels and energy efficiency. Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was a sponsor of the measure.

“Over the last six years, Big Oil companies received billions of dollars in tax breaks and sweetheart subsidies despite the fact that oil and gas prices are at record highs and Big Oil is swimming in record profits,” said Obey.

“Rolling back those subsidies and investing the \$14 billion we’ll save over the next ten years into alternative energy research and other efforts to increase our energy independence, is just plain common sense, and should have been done long ago.”

To end the era of sweetheart deals for Big Oil, the bill would restore payments to the treasury for oil and gas taken from public lands under the Gulf of Mexico, scrap energy industry tax breaks enacted by the last Congress, and seek to recoup payments that oil and gas companies would have had to pay for the right to drill on public land if the Interior Department had not made a serious mistake in drafting lease contracts issued in the late 1990s.

The bill would also prohibit the oil and gas industry from taking advantage of a 2004 tax break that was aimed at helping U.S. manufacturers compete against imports. That provision was never intended for highly profitable large oil companies and closing that loophole alone will save more than \$7.5 billion over the next ten years.

The measure creates a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve that would use revenue generated by the bill to:

- o accelerate fielding clean domestic renewable energy technology and alternative fuels,
- o promote conservation, and
- o increase investment in developing new clean renewable

energy and energy efficiency
technologies.